

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONVEY
TO THE CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS, OREG., ALL RIGHT, TITLE,
AND INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CER-
TAIN LANDS IN KLAMATH COUNTY, OREG.

JUNE 15, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 3018]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3018) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg., all right, title, and interest of the United States of America in certain lands in Klamath County, Oreg., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill has two principal objectives. The first is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey or relinquish certain described lands in the Klamath reclamation project to the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg. The second is to authorize the cancellation of certain unaccrued charges on unproductive lands presently being used by the city for municipal airport purposes.

ANALYSIS BY SECTION

Sections 1, 2, and 3 convey and relinquish to the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg., certain described lands which lie within the Klamath irrigation district and are being utilized for municipal airport purposes.

Section 4 authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to cancel unaccrued construction charges amounting to \$19,590 on lands designated as unproductive, and directs the Secretary to retain, on behalf of the United States, the accrued construction charges, amount-

ing to \$11,733.27, which had already been paid on the 711.55 acres of land before the land became unproductive.

Section 5 states that the conveyances authorized in sections 1, 2, and 3 shall not be made until (a) all lands within the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport and also a strip of land 30 feet wide have been duly excluded from the Klamath irrigation district, and (b) the sum payable on account of construction charges has been paid to the United States. These charges on productive lands amount to \$765.82.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

This legislation is needed in order to convey rights-of-way on two drains in the Klamath project which are now under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, and to grant an easement for highway purposes to the city of Klamath Falls on a strip of land approximately 100 feet wide for municipal airport use. The United States retains the rights to ingress and egress over roads in the lands so conveyed. It also reserves all necessary rights-of-way for utilities. The legislation is also required to clear the title on land which the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg., has already purchased from private owners and users for municipal airport purposes. Proposed additions to the airport under the Federal-aid airport program cannot be approved until the title is cleared.

The Bureau of the Budget and the Department of the Interior have reported that conveyance to the city can be made without adversely affecting the Government's financial interest since certain unproductive lands of the Klamath project which are involved are already in a nonpay status and would be so even if they were not included in the lands used by the city for airport purposes.

LOCAL APPROVAL

A resolution of the Common Council of the City of Klamath Falls, Oreg., was passed on March 6, 1950, requesting favorable action on this legislation.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

The favorable report from the Department of the Interior addressed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and dated March 29, 1951, is set forth below. It includes comment from the Bureau of the Budget on H. R. 8750 of the Eighty-first Congress, a bill identical with H. R. 3018.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington 25, D. C., March 29, 1951.

HON. JOHN R. MURDOCK,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: We are glad to reply to your invitation for an expression of the views of this Department on H. R. 3018, a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg., all right, title, and interest of the United States of America in certain lands in Klamath County, Oreg., and for other purposes. We recommend that the bill be enacted.

The bill has two principal objectives. The first, covered by the first three sections of the bill, is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey or relinquish certain described lands to the city of Klamath Falls, Oreg. The second

is to authorize the cancellation of certain unaccrued charges on lands being used by the city for municipal airport purposes.

The lands covered by the second objective of the bill are subject to construction charges in connection with the Klamath reclamation project. The plans for the project originally contemplated that such lands would be used for farming purposes. However, the city of Klamath Falls has purchased those lands, along with others, within the Klamath irrigation district for use in connection with the establishment and necessary expansion of its municipal airport. The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary to cancel the unaccrued construction charges in the amount of \$19,590 against 711.55 acres of unproductive land and to retain accrued construction charges in the amount of \$11,733.27 which have been paid on the said 711.55 acres notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary. The bill would also require the payment of the construction charges, amounting to \$765.82, against productive land to be utilized for airport purposes before completing the conveyance and cancellation of unaccrued charges.

It will be necessary, in order to accomplish the purposes of this legislation, for the Klamath irrigation district with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior to exclude these lands from the district and adjust the irrigation charges. An additional area of 38.8 acres is to be conveyed to the city under section 16 of the Federal Airport Act. The result of the entire transaction will be to enable the city of Klamath Falls to obtain and operate an efficient and well-managed municipal airport.

In a letter dated September 28, 1950, the Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget commented in part on H. R. 8750, Eighty-first Congress, a bill identical with H. R. 3018, as follows:

"It is understood that the provisions of the proposed bill would not adversely affect the Government's interest because the existing repayment obligation is canceled only to the extent that nonproductive lands are involved which would in any case under present law have been reclassified to nonpay status had they not been included in the airport. It is also understood that the lands included in the airport which would have been of pay-class status under normal irrigation development will be conveyed to the city only with appropriate repayment obligations."

On the basis of these understandings, we have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to our submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

DALE E. DOTY,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs unanimously recommends the enactment of H. R. 3018.

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